

What is Council Tax?

Council Tax is the local government form of taxation. It is based on the value of the property you stay in.

Who has to pay Council Tax?

Usually the residents of a property have to pay the Council Tax. In some special circumstances, the owner of a property pays the Council Tax even if they do not reside in it.

Do students have to pay Council Tax?

Council Tax is based on there being 2 adults living in a property.

Certain adults such as students are not counted as living in a property for Council Tax purposes and are referred to as being “disregarded for Council Tax purposes”.

If all the residents of a property are “disregarded for Council Tax purposes” your property can be made exempt from Council Tax.

If all but one of the residents of a property can be “disregarded for Council Tax purposes” a 25% discount can be given on your Council Tax bill.

What is a student for Council Tax purposes?

There are 4 definitions of students for Council Tax purposes:

1 Full time students

A full time student is a person who is studying for at least 21 hours per week, who is required to attend for at least 24 weeks per year and whose course lasts for at least one academic year. The place of study should be at a prescribed European educational establishment.



2 Students under 20 on a qualifying course of education

A qualifying course of education is one which:

- lasts no more than 3 months
- is not a correspondence course
- requires study of at least 12 hours per week
- is not undertaken as a result of the person’s employment
- is at or below a higher grade, A-level, Ordinary National Certificate (ONC) or Ordinary National Diploma (OND)

3 Foreign Language Assistants

The foreign language assistant should have an appointment at a school or other educational establishments and be registered with the Central Bureau for Education Visits and Exchanges.

4 Student Nurses

Student nurses studying academic courses at university or college.

How do I apply for a reduction on my bill?

Before you can be granted a reduction on your bill, you need to complete an application for either Council Tax Exemption or Council Tax Discount and return it to one of our offices (details of our offices are on the back of this leaflet). You also need to prove that you are a student for Council Tax purposes. Aberdeen University, North East Scotland College and Robert Gordon University provide Aberdeen City Council with lists of full time students.. If your name does not appear on these lists or if you study at a different educational establishment, you will need to provide proof of your student status. You can ask your student records office to provide a certificate that proves you are a student.

Remember, if you don’t apply for a reduction on your bill, we can’t award one!

When do I stop being a student?

You will cease to be a student for Council Tax purposes when you have completed your course of study (not your graduation date), if you have abandoned it or are no longer permitted by the educational institution to attend it.

Can I get any other help with my Council Tax or Rent?

Some students can apply for Council Tax Reduction or Housing Benefit. As the rules regarding which students can claim these benefits are complex, you can pick up a separate leaflet about these at one of our offices (details of our offices are on the back of this leaflet).

What about International Students?

International Students and their families can be held liable for Council Tax and can apply for discounts and exemptions in the same way as U.K. students.

If your family have come to join you in Aberdeen while you complete your studies and have no recourse to public funds, they can be “disregarded for Council Tax purposes” as well. You still need to complete an application form and in addition to proving you are a student, you will need to provide proof that your family has no recourse to public funds. This is usually done by bringing their passports in to one of our offices (details of our offices are on the back of this leaflet).

Most international students cannot apply for Council Tax Reduction or Housing Benefit. This is because you are expected to be self-sufficient whilst studying in the country. As the rules regarding which students can claim these benefits are complex, you can pick up a separate leaflet about these at one of our offices (details of our offices are on the back of this leaflet).

Our contact details:

Web: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk and select 'Apply for it'

Email: counciltax@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Tel: 08456 080921

(Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 6.00 pm)

In person:

Customer Service Centre,

Marischal College, Broad Street, Aberdeen

Area Housing Office,

Formartine Road, Tillydrone, Aberdeen

Mastrick Customer Access Point,

Spey Road, Mastrick, Aberdeen

All offices are open from 8.30am to 5pm

In writing:

Revenues and Benefits

Business Hub 16

Marischal College

Broad Street

Aberdeen City Council

AB10 1AB

We provide information for the blind or partially sighted via tape, braille or large print.

For help with **language / interpreting** and other formats of communication support, please contact: 01224 523 542

ভাষা/ইন্টারপ্রেটিং এবং অন্যান্য ফরমেটের
যোগাযোগ সাহায্যের জন্য দয়া করে
:01224 523 542
নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করবেন।

如果需要語言/傳譯及其他形式的傳訊支援服務，
請聯絡:01224 523 542。

Если требуется помощь при выборе
языка переводчика или других
способов общения, звоните по
телефону: 01224 523 542

للحصول على مساعدة بخصوص اللغة/ الترجمة
و وسائل الاتصال الأخرى، الرجاء الاتصال
بالرقم التالي: 01224 523 542

Lai saņemtu palīdzību sakarā ar
valodu/tulkošanu un citiem iespējamiem
komunikāciju atbalsta formātiem, lūdzu
zvanīt 01224 523 542

Jei jus turite sunkumu su kalba/ vertimu
ar kitomis bendravimo formomis,
skambinkite 01224 523 542.

Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy **językowej /
tłumacza** lub innej pomocy w
porozumiewaniu się, proszę zadzwonić
pod numer: 01224 523 542

A Guide to Council Tax and Students

